

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USBERL 03180 191604Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 MCT-01 EB-08 COME-00 ACDA-12 HA-05 /085 W
-----097623 192001Z /50

R 191453Z DEC 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5880
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMAMEBASSY BERLIN 344

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 3180

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS WB
SUBJ: TERRORIST THREATS AGAINST LEADING OFFICIALS OF COMMERCIAL
FIRMS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THREATENING CHRISTMAS MESSAGES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY TWO DIRECTORS OF THE BERLIN-BASED SCHERING PHARMACEUTICAL FIRM AND, WE NOTE, BY MESSERSCHMITT-BOELKOW-BLOHM IN MUNICH. THE MESSAGES APPARENTLY COME FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY CELLS, WITH THE BERLIN LETTERS SPECIFICALLY DEMANDING THAT 100 CHRISTMAS PACKAGES BE GIVEN TO NEEDY FAMILIES. END SUMMARY.

2. ON DECEMBER 12 TWO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SCHERING AG, A LEADING MANUFACTURER OF PHARMACEUTICALS, FOUND HAND-DELIVERED LETTERS IN THEIR RESIDENCE MAILBOXES. THE LETTERS DEMANDED THAT THE DIRECTORS SELECT ONE HUNDRED INDIGENT BERLINERS AND SEND THEM CHRISTMAS PACKAGES. THERE WAS A THINLY VEILED REMINDER THAT DISREGARDING THE DEMANDS OR BRINGING THEM TO THE ATTENTION OF THE POLICE WOULD BRING ABOUT A FORCIBLE REACTION. BOTH LETTERS CLOSED WITH THE WORDS "REVOLUTION-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USBERL 03180 191604Z

ARY CELLS."

3. WHILE THE BERLIN LETTERS HAVE A SOMEWHAT TONGUE-IN-CHEEK TONE (AND PRANKSTER ORIGIN CANNOT BE RULED OUT), THE POLICE TAKE THEM SERIOUSLY AND BOTH DIRECTORS ARE UNDER PROTECTION. WE DO NOT KNOW FOR CERTAIN HOW THE DIRECTORS PLAN TO RESPOND TO THE DEMANDS, BUT ASSUME THEY

WILL NOT BE MET.

4. THE AUTHORITIES HERE ARE WORRED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME FORM OF DIRECT TERRORIST ACTION DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON. ACTION AGAINST WEALTHY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT WHO REFUSED TO GIVE TO THE POOR MIGHT BE CONSIDERED BY POLITICALLY-SENSITIVE TERRORISTS TO OFFER AN ATTRACTIVE MEANS TO GAIN INITIATIVE. IT IS RECALLED THAT DURING EARLY 1977 THE PERSONAL AUTOMOBILES OF TWO WEST BERLIN JURISTS WERE FIREBOMBED FOLLOWING THE OWNERS' INVOLVEMENT IN PROSECUTION OF NEEDY PERSONS WHO HAD TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF A SIMILAR "ROBIN HOOD"-TYPE ACTION.

5. THE PLAUSIBILITY OF SOME ACTION BEING TAKEN AGAINST COMMERCIAL FIRM LEADERS IS BOLSTERED BY NEWS OF A THREAT AGAINST MESSERSCHMITT-BOELKOW-BLOHM GMBH IN MUNICH CONTAINED IN THE DECEMBER 17 BKA DAILY REPORT. WE NOTE THAT THE MUNICH LETTER MADE NO DEMANDS BUT CLOSED WITH A CLEAR THREAT, "EIN BOMBIGES WEIHNACHTSFEST MIT VIEL FEUERWERK ERWARTET SIE."GEORGE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: THREATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USBERL03180
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770472-0895
Format: TEL
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771239/aaaabgpq.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9ce45000-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 178080
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TERRORIST THREATS AGAINST LEADING OFFICIALS OF COMMERCIAL FIRMS
TAGS: PINS, WB
To: BONN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9ce45000-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009